



February 2018

President's Message

I trust that you've enjoyed a well-earned break over January.

It's back to school for many families and back to work for many people. It was great to see the January announcement by the State Government to Reverse the decision to close the Northam Residential College. It's a reminder of what positive outcomes a community can achieve.

Take care when travelling around town, especially with the return of school buses and school children using the roads and footpaths.

The Shire recently hosted it's Welcome to Northam morning tea. This is a common time of year when new families and workers move to Town. Please take the time to welcome anyone new to the Shire. The benefit may not only make them feel welcome into the community, but allows them to settle, add value, and even join your sporting club or community group.

The Aboriginal and Environmental Interpretive Centre now has an official name. Bilya Koort Boodja – Centre for Nyoongar Culture & Environmental Knowledge. Bilya Koort Boodja translates into "River Heart Lands". Keep your eyes and ears open for the upcoming opening of this great new facility.

Keep looking at the Shire of Northam website or Visit Northam Facebook Page to see what local events are coming up. The Shire and Local Community Groups regularly hold events, many of which you might enjoy.

For residents of Bakers Hill and surrounds, you've seen it in the news. The February Forum and Shire Council Meetings will be held at the Bakers Hill Pavilion. This is a good chance to meet the Shire Councillors and some of the staff and even to ask questions at the Forum Meeting on any agenda item.

Remember to remain Bushfire Aware. Be thankful and respectful of all the local emergency and community volunteers. If you haven't already, maybe look at volunteering locally some of your time or skill. You can make a positive difference to someone in need.

During February, take the time to sit back and enjoy the people, products and places that we have in Northam, and invite your friends and family into the Shire. 2018 continues to be an exciting year.

Take Care

Shire President
Chris Antonio

Adopt-a-Spot

Adopt-a-Spot is an anti-litter program that engages volunteers to undertake coordinated litter clean ups of designated sites in their communities.

Littering is becoming more frequent in our community. This program is designed to provide an opportunity for the community to understand the issue, help educate the wider community about how litter impacts on our community and provides an opportunity for people to be a part of the solution.

For more information, or to get involved email records@northam.wa.gov.au

Community Citizen Awards

Each year on Australia Day, the Citizen of the Year Awards give the Shire of Northam the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution and celebrate the active citizenship of Western Australians at a local community level. This year the Citizen of the Year was awarded to Andrew Quin and the Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Dakota Narrier.

Andrew has been a shining light in the Northam community. A small business owner, active volunteer, chairman of the Northam Country Club, board member of Share and Care and Northam Chamber of Commerce, he is active within the community above all others. In his business he fosters and mentors young tradespeople who themselves are now winning awards. Within the Northam Country Club he works hard to ensure that one of the town's largest collective sporting facilities continues to be solvent and effective

Dakota's contribution towards the Sporting Community (Football, Basketball & Netball) is tireless. Dakota unknowingly promotes these sporting events, with her presence and her enthusiasm for each of the sports. She is always involved in these events, either by actively playing in the games, umpiring, or assisting the teams. Dakota is Role Model within the Community of the Wheatbelt, having gained the respect of both young and older generations.

Congratulations Andrew and Dakota!

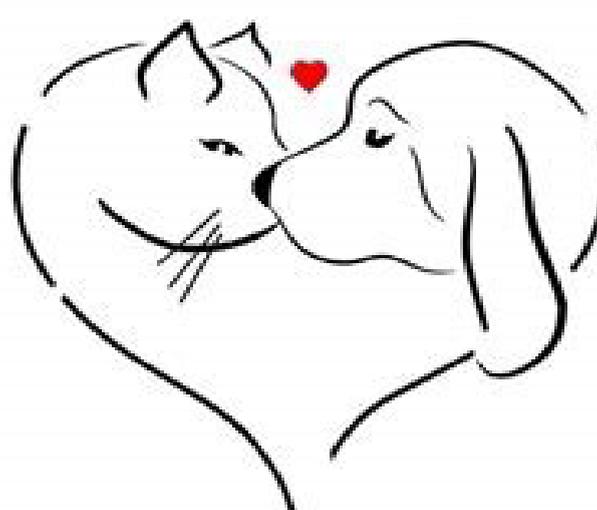
Innovation Hub

We are looking to connect with people doing clever things around our region who would be interested in an Innovation Hub and connecting with other people in this space.

An Innovation Hub will provide a platform for like-minded entrepreneurs to connect, build solutions, contribute skills and develop collaboration opportunities. This Hub will enable active knowledge transfer to bring together an inspiring community. Email us (records@northam.wa.gov.au) to register your interest and join our mailing list.

Ranger Services

Council's Ranger Services would like to acknowledge the Shire of Northam community, AI Wheatbelt Dog Rescue, SAFE Avon Valley and many other rescue organisations for partnering with us to ensure that all suitable animals impounded are either rescued or rehomed. If you are interested in becoming a new pet owner of one of our impounded animals please call Ranger Services on 9622 6100 during normal office hours.



What's on in February

Saturday 10	Northam Farmers Market
Friday 16	Hatch Meet Up
Saturday 17	The Wheatbelt Charity Masquerade Ball
Sunday 18	Northam Vintage Swap Meet
Saturday 24	Northam Farmers Market
	The Grand Ball - Arabian Nights

Visit www.northam.wa.gov.au for more information.

At the Library

NORTHAM LIBRARY	
Every Monday 10.30-11am	Activity Time for 0-5 yrs
Every Wed 10:30-11am	Story Time with Craft 2-5 yrs
Every Friday 9:30-10am	Baby Rhyme Time 0-2 yrs

All activities are open to all residents of the Shire of Northam free of charge.

Keeping Kids in School

The Keeping Kids in School program is a coordinated approach to increase participation in school and reduce truancy involving the entire community working together to address the issue.

Students are required to provide a leave pass to show that they have permission to be away from school during school hours. Shop owners may request to view a leave pass if faced with school-aged customers during school hours. Our community is working together in a bid to encourage students to gain a better start in life by attending school every day. Information packages, including posters to display in shop windows are available for download from the Shire of Northam website.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children and ensure they understand that the local shops are not a place that students can spend their day if they decide they won't be attending school without a valid reason. This program is a community effort with commitment from the Shire of Northam, the Department of Education, WA Police and local businesses.

Parcel Theft

Ordering your loved ones Valentine's Day present online? There are a few things you can do to prevent your parcel from being stolen from your front door or verandah.

Not going to be home during the day? Have your parcel delivered to your workplace (be sure to check with your boss first). Always check the signature on delivery option. Going away for holiday? You can place a hold on your package (and all your mail) to keep your parcel safe.

Insure your parcels. Insuring your parcels will guarantee your reimbursement if unfortunately your delivery was stolen or lost before you lay your hands on it.

If the sender has sent you a link to track your parcel, be sure to use it.

As a sender, always register your parcels!

40km/hr in School Zones

With students returning to School last week, please remember to slow down to 40km/hour in all School Zones, between 7:30 to 9:00am and 2:30 to 4:00pm.